

THE LANDSCAPE.

**"Oh, 'tis exalting to the humblest mind,
"The hurrying stride our youthful city's taken,
"Leaving her envious sisters all behind,
"As the earth's sinking heart with awe is shaken."**

CITY OF NEW-YORK.

IN the year 1629, twenty years after the discovery of the Hudson river, Fort Amsterdam received its first governor, Wouter Van Twiller. A few years afterwards the Dutch surrendered the settlement to an English expedition, commanded by Colonel Nicholls, who changed its name, in honour of the Duke of York, afterwards James II., and on the 12th of June, 1665, incorporated the city of *New-York*, under a mayor, aldermen, and sheriff. The charter which the city thus received was sanctioned by that sovereign on the 22d April, 1686, who confirmed the rights, grants, and privileges, conferred by former governors or commanders, by the style and title of the "Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of New-York," which title is retained to this day.

The original forts erected for the defence of the Island of Mannahatta, on which the city stands, has long since disappeared. Time and the elements have consigned them to the unalterable destiny which awaits all the productions of human art and industry; and scarcely a vestige remains to direct the curious inquirer to the spot where once they stood. Even the site of the wall which was run across the Island, from the North to the East rivers, to protect the early settlers against the incursions of the Indians, is now only to be ascertained by the situation of *Wall-street*, which is said to have derived its name from this circumstance. When a few centuries more, and thrice,

the number of future generations, shall have passed away, every fact which relates to this subject, and which is now deemed too insignificant to be rescued from the grasp of tradition, will be carefully gleaned from the annals of the past, and will form the foundation of many a studied commentary, and many a learned conjecture.

The growth of the city of New-York may be ascertained from the following statement of its population at different periods :

In 1697 the inhabitants were 4,802

1756	-	-	15,000
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1771	-	-	21,803
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1786	-	-	23,614
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1791	-	-	33,131
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1801	-	-	60,489
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1806	-	-	75,770
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1807	-	-	83,530
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1810	-	-	100,000
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1816	-	-	115,995
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1824	(probably)	-	140,000
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Its future growth we can scarcely venture to estimate. Possessing advantages which are scarcely to be surpassed, in its proximity to the ocean, and its facilities of intercourse with the interior by means of that splendid system of internal navigation which has been so successfully carried into effect, its commercial character must rapidly increase; and the time may not be very remote when it will outstrip, in its wealth, population, and credit, the most extensive sea-ports of the old world.

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